

NAPTOSA HOUSE  
270 Prince's Park Avenue  
Pretoria

PO Box 572, Pretoria, 0001



Tel: (012) 324-1365  
Fax: (012) 324-1366

E-mail: [info@naptosa.org.za](mailto:info@naptosa.org.za)  
[www.naptosa.org.za](http://www.naptosa.org.za)

---

# NAPTOSA

---

**National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa**

24 April 2020

## **COVID - 19 – NON-TEACHING AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS' STAFF**

Dear MEMBER,

The President's announcement on the relaxing of the lockdown regulations from 1 May 2020 will undoubtedly impact the re-opening of schools. An announcement in this regard by the Minister of Basic Education is awaited.

Whilst the focus to date has been mainly on teachers, learners, the curriculum and the school calendar, it is time to reflect on the impact that it will have on our non-teaching members. Support staff, who are an important cog in the effective running of our schools, will be in as much contact with learners and parents as teaching staff, although we trust that the Minister will put a curb on parent visits to schools for the time being.

We have said before, NAPTOSA will not agree or support any return to school if the basics regarding social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other necessary measures are not already in place on the return date. We have therefore called on the Department to ensure that proper health and safety measures are implemented to also protect our non-teaching staff.

The important role that our secretarial, cleaning, ground, hostel and kitchen staff will play post the re-opening of schools cannot be emphasised enough. Sanitation, ground-keeping and hygienic kitchen environments will have to be raised to an even higher standard than what we have had up to now. Lives could depend on it.

Our members working in special schools, be they teaching or non-teaching staff (assistants) also need a special mention. Your involvement with learners at a physical level is often greater than that in other schools. We will request the Department to give special attention to your working environments and to put additional measures in place to safeguard your health and safety.

It is a comfort to know that society can depend on all NAPTOSA members in schools to fulfil their various tasks with dedication, passion, and a work ethic comparable to the best.

**N. NTANTALA**  
**PRESIDENT: NAPTOSA**